(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The European Parliament adopted a resolution on human rights of Dalits in India on February 1,2007 titled 'European Parliament resolution on the human rights situation of the Dalits in India'.

(b) and (c) Noting that the resolution lacked both balance and perspective, a protest was lodged with the European Parliament.

Nepal's relations with India *Vis-A-Vis* China

†1838. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the prominent personalities of Nepal has asked for closer relation with China instead of India;

(b) if so, the efforts being considered to have more closer ties with Nepal;

(c) Government's approach towards such statements inspite of efforts so far made; and

(d) whether such elements are also existing in India who are having sympathetic view regarding these statements?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Various opinions with regard to Nepal's relations with China and Idnia are expressed within Nepal. The Government of India remain fully committed to strengthening and deepening its multi-faceted bilateral relationship with the Government and people of Nepal for the mutual benefit and progress of both countries.

Minister's visit to Iran

1839. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his visit to Iran, its nuclear programme was discussed; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government could make breakthrough in resolving the tussle on the Iran nuclear programme with other member countries of United Nations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. India emphasised that all possible efforts should be made to address Iran nuclear programme issue by peaceful means through dialogue and negotiations with all sides showing flexibility and restraint. India stated that the UN Security Council Resolution 1737 underscored the need for more active and transparent cooperation with the IAEA for resolution of outstanding issues.

River flowing from Tibet towards India

†1840. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the threats posed by rivers flowing from Tibet towards India;

(b) if so, whether Government have raised this matter with Government of China; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government are aware of reports regarding China undertaking projects to divert waters of the Brahmaputra river. The Spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Ambassador in India have denied such reports.

Government have taken up this issue with the Chinese side, including during the visit of the President of China to India. In the Joint Declaration issued on November 21, 2006 during the visit, the two sides agreed to set up an expert-level mechanism to discuss interaction and cooperation on the provision of flood season hydrological data, emergency management and other issues regarding trans-border rivers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.